NO POST

FROM HEAVEN,

NOR

YET FROM HELL:

But a True Relation, and Animadversion, written and sent, as an Antidote, to all unbelieving Brownists, Prophane Anabaptists, Schismaticall Monsters, and such like Incendiaries of the State:

Proving by Histories, and apparently shewing by Records and Examples, that his Majesties taxations have not been unusuall, nor his Governement tyrannicall: as hath been through impious and impudent Pamphlets, by some of them malitiously invented, diabolically printed, and by a most superstitious, and unheard of way, protected, divulged, and scattered abroad.

Dedicated to His Sacred MAJESTY,

By G. A.

Printed at OXFORD, 1643.

TO THE
High and Mightie Monarch
CHARLES,
King of great Brittaine, France, & Ireland, Defend. of the Faith, &c.

Wiſhing a glorious **Conqueſt on Earth**, and a triumphant Victory in Heaven.

Great SIR,

APELLES *having drawn an exquiſite picture, ambition tickling* Fancy, *ſet it to the view of Cenſure, and covertly concealed himſelf; Time, brought to light an* Artiſt, *more curious than* Acute, *he ſees, diſlikes,* Appelles *mends, and puts it to the view againe; in ſhort time after, he returnes, reviews, and ſtill diſlikes;* Appelles *marking his tranſcendency, and finding his imbecillity, diſlodges himſelf and ſuddainly lets ſlip this bitter Curbe,* Sutor ne ultra crepidam.

So, if I, Oh King, like to this unskilfull Artiſt, *have preſumed,* Icarus-*like to ſoare above my pitch, and* Phaeton-*like to mount the Chariot of the Golden Sun, Let it, I beſeech you, be imputed to* Error Amoris, *which I am always bound to offer, and*

not to Amor Erroris, *which I may not, I must not, nay, I dare not proffer.*

Be pleased then, to cast your Princely eye, upon this undigested lumpe of Virgins waxe, and do but grace it with one Royall smile, and then you Arme, and make him able to incounter with that triple headed Monster, base ingratitude, (at this present your Majesties greatest and heaviest enemy) but, could it infuse into me the strength of Sampson, *I would tye those Foxes tayles together, (that go about to disturbe your Peace) and drive them into a Desert, where they should never returne againe, either to destroy your Corne, or hurt your Pasture; but, Oh my good wishes, fall short of my true hearts intention: howsoever this vigor it will add unto me, that I shall neither expect the hopes of any, nor fear the votes of many; but merrily chant this Miscellany;* Nec habeo, nec careo, nec curo: *And so upon the bended knees of my heart, praying for your Majesties long and happy Raigne over us, I humbly kisse your Royall hand:*

Your Majesties poore, and unfortunate, yet most true, and loyall Subject,

G. A.

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NO POST FROM HEAVEN,

Nor yet from Hell: But a true Relation and Animadversion, written and sent, as an Antidote, to all unbelieving Browniſts, Prophane, Anabaptiſts, Schiſmaticall Monſters, and ſuch like Incendiaries of the State, &c.

TO ſearch for forraigne Stories, or to trace into the foot-ſteps of Royall and regall governements, of remote and farre Countries and Kingdomes, for proofes to make good my Aſſertions, unleſſe, I can by ſome of our own domeſtique, and authentique records and examples make them firſt appeare, were but *Nodum in ſcirpo quærere*, and would rather ſavour of too much curioſity, than give any true reliſh unto verity.

My firſt intention therefore was to have both fully and at large ſet down all the exactions, impoſitions, taxes, and loanes, that have been, either by prerogative, power, or generall grant, exacted, leavyed, takon, and ſet upon this State, from William the Conquerors time to King Iames; But having ſithence, propounded to my ſelf brevity, and to ſhunne prolixity, I will therefore only with as light a hand, and in as ſhort a way as poſſibly I can, ſummarily draw up thoſe, which do moſt concerne and conduce to this preſent diſcourſe, and curſorily runne over the reſidue, that ſo the curious, and the carping may perceive, and the judicious and religious judge, that His Majeſty hath not ſo far tranſ-

ſcended his bounds of government, as is moſt ſcandalouſly, and moſt injuriouſly caſt upon him.

2 Then will I, in a ſhort Method, and very briefely compare His Majeſties taxations, and theirs together.

3 And laſtly, I ſhall compendiouſly touch thoſe Exactions, Impoſitions, and Gabells, practiſed, uſed and taken in forraigne States, and Kingdomes, that ſo theſe Sonnes of *Belial*, Thoſe that have *Jacob's* voyce, but *Eſau's* hands, whoſe broyling ſpirits doe nothing but fling fire-brands, and heap on wood, to ſet Kingdomes in combuſtion; thoſe that are a nurcery of warre, a Seminary of Schiſme, whoſe very thoughts are barbarous, and their actions bloudy, the children of darkneſſe, and the very ſpawne and off-ſpring of curſed *Cham*, may ſee their nakedneſſe, confeſſe their Errour, flye for covert, crave for mercy, and pray for repentance.

VVilliam *the Conqueror.*

AND firſt to begin with *William* the Conquerour, who in the entrance of his Government, tooke of every Hide-land twelve pence, as due from the Subject to their Soveraigne, both before and ſince the Conqueſt, to defray ſuch charge, as either the defence of the land from ſpoyle, or the Sea from piracy, ſhould expoſe the Prince unto.

And it was called *Danegeld*, *Gelda Regis*, or Hidage; and was ſeſſed by the Hide, or plough-land, like to that *Ingrata per Iugera* in Rome; yet by no rate definite.

He alſo took other Exactions, (as the Monk of St. *Albans* ſaith) *Sive per fas, ſive per neſas*: And into this liſt alſo of charge, he racked the Biſhops, & Abbots, ſeiſing upon them; and at their charge a proportion of ſouldiers for his ſervice; exiling many worthy men, that oppoſed (as they then thought) his thraldome.

William Rufus.

THE next is *Will. Rufus*, who in the *An. 7.* ſet upon the Heads of ſo many as he muſtered up for the French wars 10. *s.* a man, and ſo diſcharged them.

And

And in *Anno* the 9. he spoyled the Churches of their Ornaments and holy vessels, and leavyed four Hidages of every plough Land, *Tributis Angliam modo, non abradens, sed exhauriens.* Ex antiquis legibus Angliæ.

And so wearyed with wars, taxations, and expence, *Ne respirare potuit Anglia, sub ipso suffocata, quid jam non Regibus ausum, aut quid jam Regni restat scelus*, in this Kings time.

Henry the first.

THen *Henry* the first, who in *Anno quinto magnam a Regno exegit pecuniam.* Hist. Gualr. Gisbourne.

And by this means, *gravabatur terra Angliæ oppressionibus multis.* Hist. Matth. Par.

He took also in the 10. year six shillings *danegeld*; and the 17. year, *Anglia fuit variis depressa exactionibus, & bonis, sine peccato spoliata.* Hen. Huntingdon.

King *Stephen.*

FOr King *Stephen*, there needs no more, but the words of the Monk of *Gisbourn*, *Post annum sext. pax nulla; omnes partes torrebat violenta prædatio.*

Henry the second.

HEnry the second, alluding, and not unlike to the *Feoda* given the Etemites in the decline of the Empire, as *Salaries*, continued the policy of his Progenitors, who allotted the land into such, and so many equall portions, as might seem competent for the supportation of a Knight or man at arms, from whom as occasion required, he received either service or contribution.

This tenure, now esteemed a thraldom, began upon a voluntary submission; and therefore respecting their first immediate dependancy upon the Crown, which is a great part of the Kings honour, their duties and escheats a great benefit, and their attendance by tenure in war, at their nown charge to the number of 60216. at the least, (for the Knights fees in England are no lesse) a great eale and strength to his State; for they are *Totidem hostagia* Bracton.

gia, as *Bracton* sayth, It were a thing perillous now to alter, after such a current of time and custome.

He in the beginning of his Reigne took a Scutage, whereof there is no record.

But the second Scutage, which was in *Anno quinto*, amounted to 124 *Millia Librarum Argenti*, which reduced to the Standard of our monies to 5. s. the Ounce; whereas that was not five groats, will amount to neare 400000. l.

Ex lib. Rub. in Sc. In *Anno* the 7. *Scutagium fuit Assessum, ad duas Marcas*, which if summed up, by the received number of Knights fees, being 60216. in the hands of the Layety cannot be lesse than 250000 l.

The like in the next year; and in *An.* the 11. there was an ayd of two pence, *de unaquaque Libra.*

Gerv. Dorob. And *quatuor sequentibus Annis de singulis libris, singulas denarias* was taken of all men, and their estates and full fortunes, being delivered upon their oaths.

Rub. lib. in Sc: And in the 14. year, a Scutage was assessed, *ad marcam unam, de singulis feodis.*

Hist. Rossens. And in the 18. year, *Scutagium pro quolibet Feodo.*

Matth. Par. And in the 35. of his Raigne, a tenth of all mens moveables was granted; In which dying 900. *Millia libr. in Auro, & Argento præter utensilia & jocalia reinlit.*

Richard the first.

Rub. lib. in Sc. Hist Matt. Paris. *Richard* the first, in the beginning of his Reigne, besides *Scutagium Wallie assessum*, at ten shillings leavied, (as in the succour of the holy Land) a Subsidy out of all the moveables in the Realm to his owne use: *Et Eleemo sine titulo vitium rapacitatis incluſit.*

A Coutribution there was in his sixth year of 150 *Millia Marcarum Argenti*, to pay his ransom, as also a Scutage assessed at 20. s.

Ex Iohan. de Everſden. And in the 7. year, he imposeth a contribution, called *Tenementale*, extremity inventing, *Nova & varia prædandi vocabula*; and this was 2 s. of every plough-land from the husband-man, and from the gentry & nobility, the 3. part of their Militarie service.

Walt. Coventry. Mat. Paris. He enforced the *Cisterciall* Monks, to redeem their Wools, *sine Coriaria*, assessed a Scutage at 20 s. and four years after of every plough Land 5 shillings, and of every Burrough and City,

Duos

Duos Palfridos, & totidem summarias, and of every Abbot, halfe asmuch; than loosing of purpose his great seale, proclaimed that, *Omnes Charta & Confirmationes, quæ Prioris sigilli impressione roborarverat*, should be void, whereby he drew from all men a composition of their Liberties. ex Charta orig.

This fashion was afterwards taken up by some of his successors, as in the eleventh of *Henry* the thirds raigne, and therefore, some reason *Richard* had in the end to become a gatherer, that had not long before, by accompt of his Chancellor *Hubert* then Archbishop, spent *Intra biennium undecies centena millia Marcarum argenti de regno Anglia.* ex hist Mat. Paris, pag. 29

King Iohn.

HIs Brother King *Iohn* succeeding, took in the first yeare of his raigne, a Scutage assessed at two marcks for the two next yeares, three shillings of every plough-Land; and the yeare following, besides a Scutage, the fourtieth of the revenues of the Clergy, and laity. Rud. Cogeshall, lib. Rub. in Sc. Rog. Hoveden, Matth. Paris.

In the fourth yeare, he took the like Scutage, and the seventh part of the Moveables of the Barons, and Clergy; and in *Anno quinto* a Scutage assessed at two marcks. Lib. Rub. in Sc. Matth. Paris, & Rud. Cogeshall.

The like in his six and seventh yeares, twenty shillings Scutage, and the thirteenth part of the Moveables, aswell of the Clergy, as the laity in the yeare following.

In *Anno* the ninth, he exacted by redemption of the concubines of the Clergy, a great sum; and in the eleventh, (*Extorsit tributum grave*) *videlicet* 140 *millia librarum, à viris Ecclesiasticis & Clericorum horreum invasit.* Rud. Cogeshall Mat. Paris.

In the 12 a Scutage assessed at two marcks, besides the exaction of 22000l. from the Cistertians.

He took in the 13 yeare, a Scutage of 20 shillings. Rud. Cogeshall, Lib. Rub. in Sc. & Math. Paris, hist. Minor.

In the yeare following, from the Ministers of the Church, 40000 marcks.

And in the 16 yeare, *Scutagium assessum ad tres Marcas.*

Thus, in the space of 17 yeares, was the State delivered but thrice from impositions.

Henry *the third.*

And now for Henry the third, there was in his time affeſſed upon the Clergy, Nobility, and Gentry, fifteen Scutages, one at ten ſhillings, two at 20 ſhillings, eight at two marcks, and foure at fourty ſhillings the Knights fee.

Clauſ. anno 29 H. 3. & Math. Weſtminſt. Ex Stat. an. 4, ca. 17. dorſ.

The Land of the Inferior were twice taxed at half a marck the plough, and two tallages upon the Land of the Crown.

Clauſ. anno 16, H. 3, & Eversden. Ex li. Cant. Epi. Ex Everſd. & Paris.

From out of the moveable goods of the lay Subjects, have been taken five times, as ſometimes the fourtyth, thirtyth, twentyth, and fifteenth parts, and once the ſixteenth of the Clergy, for this King.

He likewiſe impoſed nine times a tenth upon the Church, ſix times for a yeare only, and by it ſelf, once accompanyed with the firſt fruits, once for three yeares, and once for five, beſides two Aides, the one Moderate, the other called *gravis Exactio*, and that worthily, if to the eight hundred marcks, impoſed upon Saint Edmonds-Bury, all the other Abbyes were rated accordingly.

And by the accompt of William de Middleton, he received in the time of his governement, *de exitu Scutagium*, foure millions and 20000*l.*

Ex Everſd.

And, as in all the 56 yeares of his raigne, (excepting five) either the Church or Common-wealth were charged, with contribution and taxes; ſo were they grieved with other exactions, either for carriages, victualls, or perſonall attendance.

Dorſis Clau. anno 16. H. 3, ex Walt. Gisborne. Everſden & Paris.

For in his ſixteenth yeare, the inhabitants of Winchelſey were enjoyned, *ut providerent decem bonas naves & magnas.*

ex li. Chart. Cant. Epi. & H. 6 Parl. anno 3 Ed. 1 & Rot. Clauſ. anno 56 H. 3 Mat. Paris pa. 517

And at another time, for twenty, Dunwich and Ipſwich, five a peece, and all the ports proportionably at their own charge.

Dorſis Clauſ anno 14, H. 3, M. 8, & Clauſ [illegible] H. 3. M. 2

And in the ſame yeare, there was taken, and tranſported 100000 quarters of wheate, 5000 of oates, and many Bacons, the Church not forborne in thoſe charges, for, from Wincheſter was taken 2000 quarters of wheate and oates, and 10000 of Bacons, the other Biſhops and Clergy, bearing their charges of victuals, in the like taxations, comming, *ut unda ſupervenit undam, ac ſi eſſet Anglia puteus inexhauſtus.*

Clauſ. an. [illegible] H. 3. nu. 7

And in the twelventh and fourteenth, the King levieth Souldiers

Clauſ. anno 16 H. 3. M. 11

diers for his wars beyond Sea, collecting, *Pro exercitu suo, de singulis duobus hidis curi*; and to bring *secum victualia*, and those that were dispenced withall, to contribute for victualls to those that went for fourty dayes, commanding the Sheriffes to sweare all, *Ad arma &c.* as were sworn in the time of K. *John* his Father, by wch ordinance, all able Subjects from youth to decrepit age, were bound to arme themselves and be in continuall readinesse (*à fero usque ad manè*) for so the record is to attend the Kings pleasure; and these men thus sworne to bring with them, *Lericas, Hanbiones, &c.* and to such, as neglected, he sent out his writs, reprehending at first, *Iurgatorie eo quod, &c.* and after finding them, according to their abilities and tenures, as taking *in Anno* the 26 of *William de Vmfreville* 100 marcks, and so in proportion of many others. Rot. Finium 26 H. 3 M. 6

Edward *the first.*

EDward the first, exacted from the Lands of his Subjects foure times Scutage, assessed at every time 40 shillings the Knights fee, and once an ayde, called *Auxilium novum*, which he farmed out for ready mony.

Out of the rents of the Clergy, he tooke a tenth part, twice for one yeare, and once for six, and the twentyth part twice from both the Provinces, and once for two yeares from *Canterbury* only, and seised once into his own hands the possessions of the Priors Aliens.

Of the goods of the Clergy, he took the thirtieth, fifteenth, and the fifth part once, the moity three times, and the tenth seven times, first, for two yeares, and then for three yeares, and once for six yeares.

Of the goods of the Commons, the eighth, the ninth, and the twelveth part he took once; twice severally the tenth and 11th, the Sessors being sworn to leavy and rate truly. Rot. Parl. anno 25 Ed. 1 Mem. 3 Sched.

Three times he had the fifteenth part, and once the moity of a fifteenth from the Clergy and laity together.

And this King had granted of the moveables a tenth, a fifteenth, and a third part of the Cities and Boroughs, besides a great loane on the seventh and eighth, and twice the sixth part from the Merchants, and a twentyth and seven portion, once of there commodities, imposing a new custome of a Noble upon every sack of wooll, which he let out to farme.

Rot. Vasco. anno 22 Ed. 1 M. 8

And under pretence of some breach of amity with those parts, whither his Merchants traded, he seised in *Anno* the 22. all the wools into his hands, and made of them instant sale to the best value, leaving them upon security to a short price, and a long day of payment.

Rot. Vasco. anno 21 Ed. 1 M. 17

He took the same yeare to the distast of the Pope, and murmur of the Clergy, all the mony gathered *In Subsidium Terræ Sanctæ.*

Rot. Vasco. an. 21 Ed. 1

And lastly, upon the persons of his Subjects, he imposed one tallage, sessed either *in Communi*, or *per capita*, and twice the like upon the Iews, whereof the one amounted to 5000 marcks.

Rot. Parli. an. 21 Ed. Exhist. Ioh. Everiden.

Neither were his people freed from attendance in their persons, or exactions in their estates all his raigne; for there was but one yeare of intermission from continuall payments; for in record, there appeare his writs to the Sheriffes, as in *Anno* the 31 *De peditibus eligendis de tota Anglia*, and to be found by their severall Countries, calling his Earles, Barons, and Knights to personall service, according to their Tenures.

Edward *the second.*

EDward the second, his Son, assessed upon the Lands of his Subjects, one or two Marcks at once, at ten shillings the Knights fee.

From the revenues of the Clergy, rated by the book of tenths, he at distinct times, took 4, 5, and 6d. in the marck, and once a fifteenth part of the whole.

From the goods of the Clergy, a tenth for three yeares, and twice a loane from the Abbots and Bishops.

Claus. anno 8 Ed. 2 M. 9

From the laity, (besides a tallage of their moveables) in Cities and Boroughs, once a tenth, twice a fifteenth, and twice a twentieth part of their goods, besides a loane from the Commons, and ten shillings borrowed upon every sack of wooll from merchant strangers, and a Noble from others, Clergy and laity together.

Claus. anno 16 Ed. 2 Claus. anno 12 Ed. 2

Of their goods a tenth, a fifteenth, and twice an eighteenth part besides a loane.

He augmented his Fathers new Custome, with an impolition of a Noble more upon every sack of wooll.

And

And in *Anno decimo*, because he was *infinitam pecuniam effundere*, he feiseth and increaseth an impoſition upon all commodities inward and outward, to an extream rate, & cauſeth the Commons in every ſhire, to lay down monies *in depoſito*, to pay his Souldiers.

And took from the Nobility, and Gentry, a large contribution, and ſeized *Omnes lanas, & coria mercatorum, &c.* Rot. Vaſe. An 22. Ed. M. 13. in Sched.

He charged the Ports, and Sea-Towns twelve ſeverall yeares, *Ad coſtos ſuos, & ſumptibus villarum*, (as the Record ſayth) to ſet to ſea in his ſervice, ſhips furniſhed *Armis & victualibus*; ſometimes for one moneths ſpace, as in *Anno* the 11. Roo. Scot. An. 11. M. 1.

Sometimes for four, as in *Anno* the twelfth. Sometimes for ſeven. And *Anno quarto*, the number of ſhips, more or leſſe as occaſion required. An. 12. M. 8. Rot. Parl. An. 4 Ed. 2. Dorſ. Claus an. 17. Ed. 2. M. 11.

And in *Anno* the ſeventeenth, Southampton was charged with ſix, and 180. Sea-townes more with ratable proportions for the Kings ſervice.

And in *Anno* the 18. imbarguing all the ſhips that were in any Port, that were of 40 Tuns and upwards, or of 50 Tuns and upwards. Claus. Anno. 18. M. 34. & Rot. Waſt. M. 29.

And in *Anno* 2. cauſing the Town of Southampton to build a Gally for himſelf of 120. Oars; and commanding all the Sheriffs for proviſion of victualls. Claus. an. 2. M. 11. Claus. an. 6. Ed. 2.

And in *An.* 1. 4. & 9. To provide *De exitibus Comitatus ad certum pretium*. Sometimes to the proportion of 3500 quarters of Corne: and many Bacons, as *An.* the 16. and to ſend them to the Kings Army; as alſo *Carretta, & Carra cum equis, & Bobus*, out of every ſeverall County. Rot. Scot. an. 1, 3, M. 10. & an. 4. M. 5. & an. 9. Rot. Parl. an. 10. M. 13. Rot. Parl. an. 14. M. 3. Rot. Scot. Dorſ. An. 7. M. 8. Dorſ. Claus. an. 16. M. 3. Rot. Scot. an. 2. 3. M. 8. Rot. Scot. an. 8. Ed. 2. Dorſ. Claus. an. 9. Claus. 16. Ed. 2. M. 7. Claus. an. 16. M. 20. Claus. an. 16. M. 11.

Sometimes he made the Ports to ſend proviſion themſelves, as *An.* the 7. and not to ſuffer any ſhip with victualls, *Ibidem diſcariari*; And herein, not ſparing the Church, exacted the firſt three years, *Fermenta & alia victualia* from them.

Beſides the former charges, the perſons of all men, as well of the Nobility as meaner Rank, were at their owne charges often enjoyned to ſerve, as in the 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 16 of this King, when they were called *ſingulatim*; as well Knights and Noblemen, as ſuch as held 40 pound land, according to their Tenures, *ſubſoriſfaciur. Terrarum, & Cattallorum equis & Armis ſumptibus propriis, &c.* And of this the Clergy were not exempted, as in *Anno* the 16. of this King.

And

And in the first three years of this King, out of one Town one, *sumptibus propriis*, for forty dayes: As *Anno* the 5. one: Or for 16. days; as *Anno novo* one; or *pro septem septimanis* one, as *Anno quarto*. Sometimes a thousand in one Countrey, as *Anno* 3. Sometimes an entire Army of 18300, as in *An.* the 11. And 48. thousand 800. at the charge of all the Countries.

And *An. decimo quinto*, London, *sumptibus Civitatis*, found 500 men for 40 dayes. And the like *An.* the 18.

Rot. Parl. An. 15. M. 19. Claus. an. 18. M. 13.

The King likewise commanded *Anno* the sixteenth, that all men of forty shillings Lands and upwards, should rateably send to his service Men: And *Annis* 9, 10, 15. and 16. that all *juratis ad arma*: or from 16, to 60. *secundum Stat. Wincestriæ* should attend his service.

Rot. Parl. an. 16. M. 27. Rot. Parl. an no 9. M. 21. Rot. Claus. an. 10. M. 11. & an. 16. M. 27. Rot. Scot. an. 13. M. 12. Derf. Claus. an. 6. M. 28. Rot. Scot. an. 7. M. 20. Claus an 8. M. 30. Rot. Scot. an. 12. M 6. Claus. anno 16. M. 12. Claus. An. 15. Ed. 2. M. 14. Rot. Fin. an. 15 M. 16 Rot. Claus. an. 9 M. 1. Rot. Parl. An. 16 M. 12 Rot. Claus. an. 15 M. 19 Rot. Scot. an. 13. M. 1. & Claus. an 13. Memb. 10.

And commanded the Sheriffs *An.* 6, 7, 8, 12, 16. and 18. to see all able men, that *parati sint & muniti ad veniendum ad Regem quando vocati fuerint*; their weapons to be provided *ad sumptus incolarum*; and themselves enjoyned to muster and traine every six weeks.

If any neglected his appoynted service, there was sent to the Sheriffs a writ *De habendis illis coram concilio qui præmoniti non venerunt in expeditione Regis*, as *An. quinto* one; the parties imprisoned, and their goods seised into the Kings hands, as *An.* the ninth and sixteenth; or else redemption by Fine, as the Sheriffs of Bedford, and Buckingham did their men, for six hundred Marks in *Anno decimo quinto*: And the owner of fourty pound land, at his first fault, was punished *cum tertia parte bonorum*; for his second, *Cum tota & residua*; and for his third, *sui corpora coram ad voluntat. Regis*: and of Knights twenty pounds *de qualibet Hida*, as in *Anno* the 13.

I have the longer insisted upon this Kings Reigne, that *tanquam in speculo*, we may behold the intolerable miseries and exactions charged and cast upon the Nobility, Clergy, and Commons in former time.

Edward

Edward the third.

Edward the third charged the Lands of his Subjects twice fourty shillings of every Knights Fee; and five pounds sixteen shillings of every parish: And in the 48. of his Reigne, out of the goods of the Commons he took once the ninth part, and the fifteenth part of Forrests and wastes, twice the tenth, 13. times the fifteenth for one yeare, and twice for three years, and once the twentieth part of all moveables, and 30000. Sacks of Wooll. Rot. Parl. an no 48; Ed; 33 M; 10.

Of the Burroughes and Cities, four tenths, and one for three years.

From the Temporall Lords, the tenth sheafe, Lambe, and fleece, who with the Bishops and Knights granted 20000 Sacks of Wooll, &c.

Of the Clergy alone one tenth, for foure years; besides a contribution in the twelfth yeare of his Reigne. seising the same yeare all the goods of the Clunny and Cistertian Monks.

Of the Church and Laity together, he received six times the tenth of all their moveables.

And from the Merchants and Staple, a Subsidy of wooll for three yeares.

Imposing in *Anno* the 33. sixe and twenty shillings and eight pence upon every Sack of wooll transported, which doubled the Impositions of his father, and grandfather, advancing it after for six years to 40 s.

And in *An.* the 38. (being the yeare he resumed his stile of France to 46. s. 4. d. the sack of wooll: taking poundage of all commodities six pence inward and outward; and joyning the Merchants for every Sampler of wooll transported, to return in 40 s. Bullyon in his Mint, himselfe becomming Merchant of all the Tin in Devon-shire, and Cornwall in *An.* the 12. Rot. Alman. An 12. M. 7.

And in *An.* the 15. assessed upon the heads of his subjects a fine of four pence severally.

Besides, in *Anno* the 20. he took a Loan of all the Bishops, Abbots, Justices, *& aliis potentioribus Regni de diversis pecuniarum summis, inter summas*, of one hundred thousand and forty pounds. Claus. An. 20. Ed. 1. M. 11. in dor.

In

Claus. an. 1. Ed. 3. M. 22, in dors.

In the first yeare of his Reigne, he commanded all the Sea-Townes, to attend with shippes his service, *sumptibus propriis, & amplici Eskippamento*; and to provide them of 60. Townes, and upwards.

Claus. an. 2 Ed. 3.

And in the yeare following, layeth the like charge upon 76. Port Towns, for all ships of forty Tuns, and more.

Claus. an 10 Ed. & Rot. Scot. an. 10. Memb. 9. Rot Al. anno 12. Rot. Scot. an. 10. M. 15

And in *Anno* the tenth the like at their owne charge; besides a contribution of money for payment; whereof the Officers are commanded, *Ut eos per districtiones, et alias punitiones prout expedire viderint, compeliant*; enjoyning such Merchants of London, *Qui ex transmarinis passagiis, lucra adquirunt*, To furnish Ships for war at their own charge.

And in *Anno* the 14. the Cinque Ports set out to Sea thirty ships, and maintained them during the service, half at their own, and halfe at the Countries charge, eighty being furnished and defrayed by the out-Ports, and the Admirall being directed, to Imbargue all the other shippes for the Kings service.

Rot. Al. anno 1. Ed. 3. Mem. 2.

And although the Subjects found this an infinite grievance, yet could they not, upon humble complaint in Parliament, receive any further relief, but that the King would not have it otherwise than before.

Rot. Scot. anno 10. M. 17.

For provision hee took of his subjects 19000 Quarters of Graine, 1200. Oxen salted, and 3000 Bacons; besides of other provisions an infinite quantity: and the like was very frequent all his Reigne.

Rot. Scot. an 1. M. 2. Parl. anno 14. Ed. 3.

The persons of all meaner subjects from sixteen to sixty he caused to be armed in a readinesse, and the Gentry and Nobility, supplying the King at their owne charges with seven hundred, or eight hundred men at Arms, and two thousand, or three thousand Archers: as *An.* the 14. with other proportions for divers yeares following.

Rot. Franc. anno 46.

And the Bishops ordered to furnish, *Armis et equis competentibus*; so many as occasion required; So that seeing these things were so grievous and burthensome unto them, they in the 22.

Anno 22. Ed. 3.

yeare of his Reigne complayned in Parliament of the miseries they underwent thereby; as of their ayds, advanced to forty shillings fine, that in Law should bee but twenty shillings: Their setting forth of men, and the Kings taking of their victualls without payment, the Sea left to the charge of their keeping. And from their Woolls by way of Subsidie, there

was

was 6000l. yearly exacted without Law, (besides the lending of monyes) and themselves restrained from transporting any, yet such was the necessity of those times, that they neither had redresse of their complaint, nor the State one yeare free, or discharged of contributions, impositions, and exactions all his raigne.

Richard *the second.*

RIchard the second succeeding his Grandfather, took of the Clergy and laity, once the tenth of all their Lands, and thrice the goods of the Comm. the like entirely, and 6 times the half, twelve times a fifteenth, and 6 times the moity. Parl. anno 8 & 14 R. 2 nu. 8

And had *Anno* the 21, granted one tenth to him, and a fifteenth and a half of either of them yearly for terme of life.

From out of the Boroughs and Cities, thrice a full tenth, and once a moity.

Out of all merchandize, he received three yeares six pence in the pound, and once twelve pence.

And for every tonne of wine and such commodities, six pence for two yeares, doubling it for as many, and trebling it for as many.

The custome of wools, rated by *Edward* the first, at a Noble a sack, and under his Son increased asmuch more, was to this King two shillings and eight pence, which single for eight yeares, he had granted unto him, besides once for three yeares, and once for foure, having after improved it to foure and thirty shillings and foure pence the sack.

The sum of these Subsidies, *in Anno decimo quarto*, amounted unto 160000 pounds.

From out of the goods of the Clergy, he had eight tenths and a halfe, and once out of them and the laity together, besides a loane *in Anno quinto* of 6000l.

By the Poll, or Heads of all his people, from above fifteen years, he collected twice a contribution assessed proportionably from the Beggar to the Duke.

Besides, in strength of prerogative only, of every ship and fisher man six pence.

The like of *New-castle* coales, and of every last of corne, inwards and outwards the like sum.

He alſo took their horſes, armour, and cattel, (*hinc factus eſt ſubditis inviſus*, ſaith the Biſhop of *London*) and ſo it ſeemed, for at his depoſing, it was one of the objected Articles, againſt him.

He, the firſt yeare of his raigne, impoſed upon his Subjects, as formerly his Anceſtors had done, a perſonall ſervice, as *Anno primo*, that all the Clergy ſhall array, *Armis & equis competentibus*, from the age of 16 to 60. *& eos millenis & centenis proviſos facient.*

Thus under grievous burthens, the State laboured continually for his treaſury, being waſtfully emptyed, was (as *Tacitus* ſaith) of *Tyberius*, *ſcelere replendum*, by which he meant the intolerable racking of the people.

Tacit. lib. 2

And therefore crave to have his preſent Officers removed, and very hardly would be drawn any more to taxe themſelves, but conditionally, and with this limitation, that their mony ſhould be received, expended, and accompted for to themſelves, and by Treaſurers of their own election, and are content in the end to load his poore dejected fortunes, with the reproachfull weight of theſe their many burthens.

Rot. Parlia. anno 1 H. 4 nu. 2

Thus, you ſee, this unfortunate Prince, firſt brought into want, than into contempt, and laſt of all depoſed; a moſt remarkeable Preſident, for theſe our times, had actions, and occaſions, fitted opportunitie and intentions.

Henry *the fourth.*

HEnry the fourth, in 13 yeares, out of the Lands of his people received twice relief, once *Auxilium de mediet ate feodorum*; and againe, a Noble out of every twenty pounds, throughout all his Realme.

Out of the goods of the Commons, foure times a tenth, beſides one for three yeares, and the like one and a half for two, and for three yeares, a poundage at eight pence once, and foure times twelve pence, whereof the laſt was for foure yeares.

The like number and yeares of the tonnage, the firſt only rated at two ſhillings, the reſt at 4 ſhillings the tonne. Out of the moveables of the Clergy, thrice a tenth, and twice a moity.

As alſo out of every Stipendary Miniſter, Fryer, and ſuch manner of perſons ſix ſhillings and eight pence a piece.

Be-

Beſides all theſe, of all he took *anno octavo*, a contribution, *Ita gravis*, that it was granted, *Ea conditione, ne trahatur in exemplum, & ut eandem poſt datum computum cremarentur.* Hiſt. Thom. Walſingh.

Henry *the fifth.*

HEnry the fifth his Sonne next ſucceeded him, in whoſe nine yeares raigne, I find no charge impoſed upon the Lands of his Subjects.

Out of the goods of the Commons, he received ſix times the tenth and a fifteenth entirely, and once 2 thirds of Staple Wares, once for foure yeares, and after for life.

Three ſhillings tonnage and twelve pence poundage, thrice he had the tenth of his Clergy.

And in the eighth yeare of his raigne, when the Chancellor bewailed to him in Parliament the feebleneſſe and poverty of the people, he, who of as many attempts as he undertook, *Totidem fecit Monumenta Victoriæ*, yet for redreſſe, and eaſe of thoſe miſeries, as *Livy* ſaith of an excellent Souldier, *pacem voluit, quia vincere potuit*, and left in the ninth yeare of his raigne, a peaceable ſucceſſor and heire.

Henry *the ſixth.*

HEnry the ſixth, *Nimium fœlix malo ſuo*, as the event proved; for retaining *paterna Majeſtatis, nihil præter ſpeciem nominis*, By feare, and facility laid the way open to his factious and ambitious kindred, to work themſelves into popular favour, and himſelf into contempt, which was ſoon done by leading the eaſy King by expence into extremity.

For, beſides the reſumption, he took on his own and his Fathers grants, which was of purpoſe plotted to make a conſumption of duty, and affection towards him, he, out of the old inheritance of his Subjects, exacted ſix pence in the pound, in *Anno* the 14: and doubled twice that valuation, not only of all Lands purchaſed from the entrance of *Edward* the firſt, but all free-hold and copy-hold, under 200l. and two in twenty of all above.

He further impoſed, firſt 6s. 8d. and then 20s. upon every Knights fee.

Out of the goods of the Commons, he had six tenths, whereof, one for three yeares besides three moities, and one third of fifteens, three halfes, one third, and eighth entire.

Besides these former, out of the wools he had 37 thousand, 107l. raised by a moity of a tenth.

And againe, of all goods 6 shillings and 8 pence in the pound of the merchants. Of Subsidies, rated as in former times, he had then by grant, once, but for a yeare trebled; for three and a half this Subsidie was advanced to 33s. and 4 pence of denizens, and 53s. 4 pence of Aliens.

Besides a Subsidie, a loane of Aliens goods, tonnage, and poundage, improved to 6 shillings and eight pence. He took in his 18. yeare, and after the rates of his Fathers time, he took it first, thrice 10 yeares, then, as often for two yeares, and againe by a new grant for five yeares, and in the end for terme of his life.

Of the Clergy, he had besides one half of Dismees, foure entire tenths, and by the State in generall in *Anno* the 31. of *Hen.6.* 2000 Archers maintained for half a yeare at the Common charge.

Anno 31 H.6

Anno 18 H.6 By the Poll, he exacted in *Anno* the eighteenth of every merchant stranger, if an householder 16 shillings a piece, if none six shillings.

Anno 27 H.6 And in *Anno* the 27, 6 shillings 8 pence of every such stranger, and 20d. of their Clerks.

Anno 13 H.6 In *Anno* the 13, he had granted for terme of his life 10l. a yeare of all inhabitants, meere denizens, and 20s. of every stranger merchant that came into the Land.

The first Monopolies The first Monopolies I find, were grounded upon the extremity of these times.

For in *Anno* the the 29, th *Spinalloes* Merchants of *Genoa* had by grant for 8 thousand pounds, the Sole trade of many Staple commodities, as the merchants of *Southampton* had all Allome for the same summe.

Thus was this unhappy Princes Raigne all war and waste, and in the end, as one saith of *Lepidus*, *A Militibus, & à fortuna deseritur*, he was left a while to a disgraced life, *Spoliata quam tueri non poterat dignitate*, A woefull example, and still fresh bleeding in our memories.

ex Patercul.

Edward *the fourth*

EDward the fourth, beſides two Reſumptions, not onely of the grants of ſuch Kings, as he accounted *de facto*: and not *de jure* to reigne: But alſo of thoſe made by himſelf, a ſea of profit, that by infinite attainders flowed dayly into his Treaſurie, took notwithſtanding of the Lords ſpirituall and temporall onely a tenth of their yearly poſſeſſions, and of the Commons ſix tenthes, three quarters, and the like proportion of fifteens.

A Benevolence in *An.* the 14. which *Fabian* calleth a new contribution, and chargeth them in *An.* the 12. with the wages of his Archers, to the ſum of 5117. l. Chron. Fabian Roc Parl. anno 12. Ed. 4. nu. 8.

Of the Merchants he took Tonnage and Poundage, for terme of life; Beſides of Merchants, as well Denizens as ſtrangers a Subſidy, the two and twentieth of his reigne, leaving his kingdome in the next, to the few dayes of his ſonne.

Edward *the fifth.*

FOr, *Oſtendunt Terris hunc tantum fata, nec ultra eſſe ſinent.*

Richard *the third.*

RIchard the third his Vncle ſucceeded, *homo ingenioſiſſimè nequam, & facundus malo publico*; full of art to beguile the people; he to make a juſt ſemblance of his unjuſt entry, beſides his act of Parliament full of dangerous untruthes, diſſembled the part of an excellent Prince, making the Commons believe by a ſtature, to which he gave firſt form of life, diſcharged them for ever of all exactions, called benevolences; ſo that in all his ſhort and wicked reigne I find recorded but once any taxe upon the people, and that was tenths granted by the Clergy of both Provinces.

Henrie

Henry the seventh.

HEnry the seventh succeeding, resumed in the third of his Reigne, most of the grants of Offices made by his brother, and assessed upon the Lands, onely of his Subjects, but one ayd, in *Anno* the 19. out of their goods and lands, a tenth peny, and fifteenth, arising to the sum of 120000. l.

He took three Subsidies, whereof the last was not above 36000. pounds.

And one benevolence, and an entire sum of the City of Lond. of 9688. l. 17. s. 4. d.

Of the Clergy he had twice the tenth and 25000. pound, by way of Subsidy, and of them and the Commons two Loans, the City of London rated at 6000. l. the other not definite in proportion, but so assessed, as the Commissioners and the Lenders could agree, &c.

Ex litera missa, Abatiss Barking manu regis H. 7

But that whereby he heaped up his Masse of Treasure: for he left in Bullion four Millions and a halfe, besides his plate jewels, and rich attire of house, was by sale of Offices, Redemption of penalties, dispensing with Lawes, and such like, to the yearly value of 120000. l.

Ex lib. Aquiet inter regem & Dudley

Henrie the eighth.

HEnrie the eighth his successor, reaping the fruit of his Fathers Labour, gave ease of burthen to his Subjects, his first two yeares, taking within the compasse of his other thirty foure, three tenths of the Commons, foure fifteens, six Subsidies, whereof that in *An. quarto* amounted to 160000 l. And that in *An.* the 7. to 110000. l.

Tonnage he had and poundage also, besides many other taxatious, loans, and benevolences, which I here purposely omit, because I hasten to an end; I will therefore touch two of the most remarkable; and those were taken by strength of prerogative also, &c.

The one was that in *Anno* the 17. acted by Commissioners, who as themselves were sworn to the service: so were they to

sweare

ſweare all thoſe with whom they did conſerre or contract, the rates directed by inſtructions, as the thirds of all goods, Offices and lands above ten pounds, and the fourth under.

The other about *An.* the 36. Exacteth out of all goods, Offices, and lands, from 40 pounds to twenty, eight pence in the pound: and of all above twelve pence in the pound.

And amongſt the many Loans, there is none more notorious than that of the 14. which was ten pound in the hundred, of all goods, jewells, utenſils, and Land from twenty to three hundred pounds, and twenty Marcks of all above, as farre as the Subjects fortune revealed by the extremity of his oath would reveale. Ex inſtru. orig. an. 14. H. 8.

And to the Revenues of his Crown, he added a maſſe of treaſure, by an inhumane ſpoyle of ſacred Monuments, and impious ruine of holy Churches, if Gods bleſſing could have accompanyed ſo foule an act.

Edward the ſixth.

Edward the ſixth his ſonne, beſides Tonnage and Poundage for life, in *Anno* the 1. received of his Lay ſubjects ſix fifteens; and of both three Subſidies, leaving one of the temporality ungathered with his ſiſter.

Queen *Marie*.

Queen *Marie* remitted in *Anno primo* of her Reigne, yet was ſhe inforced to preſſe upon her people; and beſides the Loan in *Anno* 1. for terme of life granted unto her by Parliament, ſhee laid an impoſition of ſix ſhillings eight-pence upon Wines; and a new impoſition upon French Wines, and took beſides five fifteens of the Commons: and of them, and of the Clergy three years Subſidies.

Queen

Queen *Elizabeth:*

QVeen *Elizabeth* her Sister, of happy memory succeeding, besides divers Loans of her people, and others in forraign parts, with the impesition upon cloathes and French wines, had by grant of her subjects thirty eight fifteens, twenty Subsidies, of the Commons, and eight and twenty of the Clergy: All which together rose to a summe of two Millions and 800000. pounds.

Thus having at the last drawne downe the many and mighty pressing burthens of this Common-weale, which were, and have bin taken, either by prerogative power, or by general grant, I hope by this time you perceive that His Majesties Taxations are not, nay have not beene so frequent or usuall, so many or intolerable; nor yet, either in quantity or quality to them in any degree comparable.

Let us then see, in what or wherein His Majesty hath transcended: or wherein, or by what meanes those few (compared to this multitude) should lye so heavy, and be such a gnawing corrosive unto the subjects heart, that he, and he alone of all his Predecessors (excepting two and they had Competitors) must be by these fire-brands of strife, and the very tempests of sedition, thus hatefully detracted, scorned and vilified.

Is it for Tonnage, or Poundage? why that was taken by *Edw.* the second, *Edward* the third, *Henry* the fourth, *Henry* the fifth, *Henry* the sixth, *Edw.* the fourth, *Henry* the seventh, *Henry* the eighth, and *Edw.* the sixth.

Is it for ships, or ship-money? why that was taken likewise by *Wil.* the Conquerour, *Ed.* the second, *Ed.* the third, and *Rich.* the second.

Is it for Monopolies? why that was first invented by *Henry* the sixth, and so hath since continued.

Is it for tessing all men by the Poll, or head? why that was done by *Edward* the first, *Richard* the second, and *Henry* the sixth.

And yet I pray you, understand how it came to him, and observe the cause that first drew him into this want, and thus exhausted

hausted his Treasure, it was by reason of our good Brethren of *Scotlands* rising, (mistake me not, for I do not meane their fleshly, but their spirituall rising) who, like the *Ammonites* and *Moabites* were to the children of *Israel*, so were they at that present to us, like Thornes in our eyes, and Goads in our sides.

And thus, you see how far short his Majesty is, or hath been of his Predecessors to lay unusuall, and unheard of taxations upon us; their little fingers having been heavier to them, than hitherto his Majesties loines have been to us.

If then Hidage and Scutage, corne, wooll, fleece, lambe, and other provisions; if tonnage and poundage, if ships, shipping, men, and monies, if setting by the Parish, by Cities and Boroughs, by *Tenementale*, or *per Capita hominum*, from the Beggar to the Duke, if new Aides and Monopolies, if the twentieth, thirtieth, fourtieth, fifteenth, thirteenth, twelfth, tenth, ninth, eighth, seventh, fifth, and a third part of our Estates, goods, lands, and moveables; if these, I say, and many other grievous and heavy impositions, and Burthens (as yet by him unpractised) have been heretofore frequently and usually taken, and leavied, aswell by prerogative power, as generall grant; how then can his Majesties taxations be accompted unusuall, his proceedings illegal, and his government tyrannicall.

Hath he pawned the Imperiall Crown of the Land, as *Ed.* the 3. and *Hen.* the 5. did.

Hath he laid to gage his royall Robes and Kingly ornaments, as *Hen.* the 3. did.

Hath he to repaire the breach of his own revenues, resumed the possessions of his people, as *Ed.* the 2. *R.* the 2. *Hen.* 5. *Hen.* 6. *Ed.* 4. and *Hen.* the seventh hath done.

Hath he of purpose, lost his great Seale, thereby inforcing you to buy your Liberties, as *Rich.* the first did.

Hath he alienated, or sold the possessions of the Crown, as *H.* the 3. *Hen.* the 8. and Queen *Elizabeth* did.

Hath he done these things, is he guilty, or can he be justly charged with them, if not, seek ye not then to manacle his hands, or tye his feet in fetters, because it is unlawfull to touch the Lords annointed; and do but remember that he is our King, a man, and no God.

But put case he hath, why, when neither frugality, or sale of Lands, would stop the gulfe of want; our Princes have been so

neere beset, as with *Nerva* and *Anthonius* the Emperors to sell and pawne their Iewels, as for example:

The Archbishop of *York* had power from *Hen.* the 3. in *Anno* the 26. (he then being in Wars beyond Sea) *Impignorandi, Jocalia Regis, ubicunque in Anglia, pro pecunia perquirenda.*

Rot. Parl. anno 26 H; 3 M; 1.

Edward the first sendeth *Ægidius Andevar*, *Ad Iocalia sua impignoranda.*

Rot. Parl. Clauf. anno 2 Ed. 1 M; 7

Hen. the 4. in *Anno* the 3. to a Merchant for mony, *Invadiavit Tabellam, & Tressellas suas Argenteas de Hispania.*

Parl. anno 3 H; 4

Hen. the 6. gageth and selleth to the Cardinall of *Winchester*, and others, in *Anno* the 10. many parcels of his rich Iewels.

Parl. anno 10 H; 6 M; 13

And the late Queen *Elizabeth*, in the end of her days did the like, to ease her Subjects with many in the tower.

And yet me thinks, I heare some whisper in mine eare, and say, that his Fathers funerall, and his ingagements left in his owne Royall Marriage, and the Queens entertainement, his Princely Childrens Births, and their Royall Educations, his Sisters calamities, and his Nephews infortunities, his Ambassadors sending, and Ambassadors comming, the repaire of the Queen Mother, and her sending away, (a Sea of treasure this way exhausted from him) are sufficient Arguments herein, (if there were none other as there are many) to clear his actions and innocency, and utterly condemne their malice and impudency.

And thus having, I hope, fully cleered this point by our own examples and authorities, let us, I pray you, throw our selves a little further, and observe, and marke the State, practise, and government of forraign Nations herein, and it will expresse a little more life, and add a true lustre to it.

And first, to begin with the Romans when they had gained the Monarchy of the world, so, as all Kingly power did rest in their Emperor.

Julius Cæsar.

Julius Cæsar laid the first imposition upon forraigne merchandizes (saith *Suetonius*) and that imposition was, *Octava rerum pars*, which is more by a fifth part, than our highest imposition in England, for it is 2*s.* 6 pence upon the pound.

An-

Augustus Cæsar.

Next, *Augustus Cæsar*, about the time of our Saviours Birth, sent out an Edict, whereby he did taxe all the world, and that taxe was *Capitatio*, or an imposition *super Capita hominum*, though the certainty thereof doth not appeare, but the Poll mony, which our Saviour himself did pay, and wrought a miracle to pay it, seemeth to be a high imposition, for the piece of mony taken out of the fishes mouth, which is called a *Dedrachma* or Stater, is said to be worth 2ˢ. 6ᵈ. sterling, which being for himself and *Peter*, that is 15ᵈ. sterling was given for a Poll, which must needs amount to an infinite thing, if it were collected out of all the world, then subject to the Roman Empire.

Tyberius.

Then *Tyberius*, who succeeded *Augustus*, took the 100 part of the price of all things bought and sold within the Empire.

Caligula.

After him *Caligula* the Emperor laid an imposition upon all Suits in Law, and took the fortiet part of the things sued for, set a price upon the Plaintive, if he compounded, or were non-suited; and set a taxe upon every Marriage contracted, or made within the whole Empire.

Vespasian.

Vespasian took more meaner, and homelier matters, for he took by way of imposition, a part of every poore mans labour, and Beggars Almes, and likewise set an Impost upon Vrine, and pleased himself with this Apothegme, *Dulcis Odor lucri, ex re qualibet.*

Severus.

Severus the Emperor did impose upon the dishonest gaine of the Stews, and took a part of the prostituts hier, (as the Bishop

of *Rome* doth at this day) and all the Emperors before *Trajan*, took the twentieth part of all legacies, and Lands, descended as things unlookt for, and therefore the Heires and Legatories might spare a part thereof.

Nicephorus.

Nicephorus, one of the Emperors of the East, did not only take (*Fumaria Tributa*) smoake mony out of every chimny, but he laid an imposition upon every mans estate, that grew suddainly rich upon a strong presumption, he had found some hiden treasure, which did belong to the Emperor by prerogative.

I could with a little more search, finde out other impositions of severall kindes, set by the Ancient Emperors upon the Heads of Beasts, upon the Tyles of houses, and upon every pane of glasse in windows; but let this suffice, how high they estee-med, and how farre they extended their prerogative in point of impositions.

I come now to the Kings and Princes of other Countries round about us, and let us see whether they have not, or do not make more profitable use of their prerogative than his Majesty hath done.

France.

And first for *France*, the most ancient and chiefest of the Neighbour Kingdomes, the impost, not only upon Merchandizes, but also upon Lands goods and persons within the realme, are so many in number and in nature, so divers as it is a paine to collect them all.

La Tallie, Le Taillon, Les Aides, Les equibolents, Les equipolents, Les Crues, or Augmentations of divers kindes, *Le Tropi*, or Benevolence, *La Gabelle*, upon Salt, amounting to an exceeding great value, the impost of Wines, *Le haulte passage*, or demaine Forraigne, *La Marchandises*, exported, *Le solid de cinquantes*, with many other, which for brevity I passe over, that are laid and leavyed upon the Subjects, by the absolute power and prerogative of the King.

Spaine.

Spaine.

The next is Spain, where there is a generall Impoſition, by the name of *Alcavala*, impoſed aſwell upon the Nobility as the Commons, which was at firſt rayſed by *Alphonſus* the twelfth, to expell the Moors; but afterwards it was made perpetuall, and is now a principall part of the Royall patrimony.

Guttieres de Gabellis: this impoſition was at firſt but the twentieth part; but afterwards it was rayſed to the tenth part of every mans eſtate, which doth farre ſurmount the higheſt impoſition that ever was layd in England by the Kings prerogative, without conſent of Parliament.

This *Alcavella* is an impoſition within the Land: but the impoſition upon Merchandizes exported and imported are farre more higher; for upon the In-gate of Indian ſpices into Portugall the King of Spaine laid the greateſt rates that ever were ſet in Chriſtendome: although upon the out-gate they were more moderate.

Italy.

In Italy the Impoſitions and Gabell ſet upon every kind of thing by the States and Princes there, are intollerable; and in eſpeciall, upon the Towns and Territories that are ſubject to the great Duke of Tuſcany, where there is not a root nor an herbe, nor the leaſt thing that is neceſſary for the life of man bought or ſold in any Town, but there is a Gabell or Impoſition payd for it, where no Inne-holder, Baker, Brewer, or Artificer can exerciſe his trade, but the great Duke will ſhare with him in his gain, where no man can travaile by Land or by Water, but at every Barge, at every Ferry, at every Wharf or Key; and at every gate of a Town, the Gabeller arreſts him; and is ready to ſet upon him naked, to ſearch what goods he hath about him, for which he ought to pay a Gabell.

The Popes Territories.

In the Popes Territories, the impoſitions which his Holineſſe doth lay upon his Subjects, as a temporall Prince, are as many and as heavy as thoſe that are leavyed by the Duke of Tuſcany.

I will therefore omit to ſpeak of the Exactions of the Court of Rome, which are infinite and in another kind, which long lay heavy upon all the Weſtern Countries of Chriſtendome, untill of late yeares ſome nations did free themſelves thereof, by rejecting the yoke of the Biſhop of *Rome*.

The Seignorie of Venice.

In the Seigniory of *Venice*, the Gabells upon the Land are more moderate, than in other parts of Italy, wherein they obſerve a profitable and politique courſe; for upon the commodities of other nations, which are of goods in their Commonwealth, they lay the eaſier impoſitions, ſometimes five, ſometimes ſeven, ſometimes ten in the hundred; and upon all Manufactures imported out of other Countries, they do lay fifteen ſhillings of the hundred, which doth exceed the higheſt impoſition in England five in the hundred at the leaſt.

The grand Seignior of Turkey.

The grand Seignior of Turkey doth impoſe ſometimes ten, ſometimes twentie of the hundred upon Merchant ſtrangers, who trade into the Levant. And I could ſpeak of his other Exactions and impoſitions upon his vaſſalls; But, that I think it not meet to compare that Regions Tyrant with the States and Princes of Chriſtendome.

Denmarke.

I could ſpeak of the great Toll which the King of *Denmarke* taketh of every ſhip, that paſſeth into the Sound, whereas the King of *England* being the undoubted Lord of the narrow ſeas, might take the like Toll, and by the ſame right of prerogative, if it pleaſed him.

And

The Low-Countries.

And last of all, for the Low-Countries, those Impositions which they call Excises payd by the Retailor of Wines, and other Commodities, and not by the Merchant are the highest, and heavyest in all Christendome (yet grow they rich) and therefore to draw, trade, and to invite all nations to commerce with them; and so to make their Countrey a staple, store-house, or Magazine for all *Europe*; They doe set but easie rates upon Merchandizes imported; but when they have once gotten the commodity into their Countrey, if any Merchant or other wil export the same againe, he shall pay a greater custome.

Thus may it evidently be seen by these forraigne examples, and comparisons, that his Majesties taxations have been far short of these designes; although I must confesse, that his Majestie of England, is as absolute a Monarch as any Emperour or King in the world, and hath as many prerogatives incendent, and adherent unto his Crown than any whatsoever: yet doth he not hold his Subjects fit to be beaten with *Rehoboams* rod, and esteemeth them too good to be whipt with Scorpions: And therefore (God be blessed) we have not in England a Gabellor standing at every Towns-end; we have not a Publican in every Market; neither do we pay for every bunch of Radish, or branch of Rosemary sold in Cheap-side; Neither have we any of those devouring *Harpies* amongst us which doe swarm in other Countries. *Nam sordidum putandum est Aurum, quod est lachrimis Oritur.*

And thus having now at length, both by forraign and domestique examples, as well out of Historie as Record, plainly proved, and made clear that his Majesties Taxations, neither were unusall, his proceedings illegall, nor (as hitherto) his government tyrannicall: Let us I pray you search a little further, and see if we can find that wedge of gold, or that Babylonish garment, that throws him into this contempt, and renders him thus odious in the eyes of his too too zealous people (for true Subjects I dare not call them.)

Mee thinkes, I heare some lost wretch say, Religion and Liberty.

Rebellion

Rebellion I must confesse had never but two Engines to put in practice their wicked and facinorous designes; and these are they which *Machiavillian*-like, under the shadow of feares and jealousies draws the giddy-headed multitude unto them, to their owne confusion; for it hath alwayes been a rule in reason, a try-all in experience, and an authority confirmed by the best, that Rebellion produceth horrible effects: for men that are weak in wisdome, violent in will, weary of quiet, and desirous of change, are easily made serviceable to every aspiring mind.

But let us see in which of them, or of the breach of which of them, his Majesty may be found guilty of.

1. *Liberty.*

And first for Liberty: whose sheep or Oxen hath he injuriously taken away? whose Vineyard, or possessions hath hee wrongfully detayned? whose wife or daughter hath he ravished or defloured? or whom hath he wittingly or willingly put to death? Nay, hath not (in a manner) the very sword of Iustice been snatched from him, and he enforced perforce to yeeld to that, (which upon my very soule) his owne heart now lamenteth for.

Hath he any wayes infringed your *Magna Charta?* Hath hee trampled upon your Fundamentall Lawes or customes? Hath he removed your Land-marks, or demolished your buildings? Is not your *Meum & Tuum* in your goods, your Lands, and your estates, your owne to dispose of to whom you will, to sell to whom you will, or consume how you will? hath he altered or done any of these things? or is he about to alter, or doe any of them? if not, what makes these mutinies? what these aspersions? and what these inhumane dissentions?

Oh, but we feare invasion and a forraign enemy: Be ashamed, ô yee of little wit, and fear not such umbragious shadows, which have hitherto cast you into a Lethargy of dulnesse, and stupidity. Open your eyes, and doe but consider (if such a thing should be) who should sustain the greatest losse, his Majesty or you.

His Majesty a free borne Prince, and Monarchy, to which nothing can be added more.

Your selves, subjects; and if invaded and conquered, could be but subjects still.

His Majesty, a King hereditarily, possessing three Kingdoms,

should

should, for I know not what, and I know not to whom, subjugate himselfe, ruine his posterity, and lose his Kingdomes, which if once lost were never to be regained, nor he, nor his posteritie, ever to be established, but utterly destroyed, and confounded.

You, as Subjects, if such a thing should be, for I hold it worthy of an if (because I hold it ridiculous) what lose you, a poore private estate, which otherwise may soon be lost, and as soon recovered.

He is our King, and borne to command; we are his Subjects, and bound to obey; would we not then think it meere folly, and madnesse in him to disinvest, and utterly throw away from him and his posterity, this Royall Soveraignty, and willingly yeeld to base servility, I think we should, as if the greatest Princes in the world should envy the estate of some poore deformed Pilgrim.

Oh, but here lyes the Riddle, here lyeth *Anguis in herba*, and this is the Ivy knot for which I want a Mawle to penetrate and break in sunder: But sure it is a bone the Devill hath cast in among you to gnaw upon, which I hope God in his good time will break in sunder, or else break his jawes that first threw it in.

For take away Soveraigne authority and government, and then shall ambition strike free home; Pride shall disdain obedience, malice procced to murther, theft deprive true possessors, idlenesse neglect labour, impiety scorn Religion, raging Tumult violate peace, and turne a happy state into miserable confusion; whereupon ensueth, that open Rebellion is often raysed, Virgins deflowred, holy places polluted, houses burned, Cities defaced, Lawes despised, the whole earth confounded, and the power of God, and Majesty of Kings, either little regarded, or utterly forgotten: And thus much for your liberty.

Religion.

I come now to Religion, hath he not commanded that all the Lawes and Statutes made against Recusants should severely bee put in execution? runnes not the current of the Law

free? hath he not willed, and doth he not will, that the true Protestant Religion established and practised in Queen *Elizabeths* time of famous memory, should be maintained and professed? Nay, hath he not sworn, as he is a King, and as he hopes for mercy or favour to be shewn either to him or his from God, (a greater asseveration, and from a greater person, I think cannot be) never to receive any, if he doth not really maintain, and seriously profess the true Protestant Religion, formerly established, and shall we then doubt? no, God forbid; for seeing in Conscience we are bound to believe an oath taken by a meane and ordinary subject, how much more are we bound to believe it comming from so great and good a King?

I cannot dive into the secret thoughts of man, his heart being open unto none: But to the all-seeing eye of God: yet for me to believe otherwise, I should altogether condemne my selfe of Barbarisme; and in some manner of Atheisme; howsoever I know you have read both his many and often Protestations made in this matter. To the which I refer you seriously to consider, and Christian-like to construe, for your further and better satisfaction; and leave the event to him who farre better knoweth when and where to give, than we know how, or what to aske.

And be not like to those greedy Fowles, that would have eaten up the Sacrifice of *Abraham*, before it could be offered with due solemnity unto God; Nor to that cruel murtherer in Egypt, that went about to stifle infants in their birth: Nor like to that envious Sanballat, which suggested slanderous suspitions against the builders of the Temple, before the Scaffolds were set up. But stay your time, firmly believe, and God will give a remedy if there be a fault: and do not nuzzell up your selves in that horrid and hellish Doctrine, That it is lawfull for a Subject (either in poynt of Liberty or Religion) to take up Armes against their lawfull and anoynted Soveraigne: for let me tell you, (and that truely) that it is but a very deceitfull, and meer Iesuiticall position, it being neither justifiable by the Law of God, tolerable by the Law of Nations, nor yet commendable by the Law of Nature; for Nature should abhorre it, all nations (excepting Rebells) doe detest it, and the very word of God it self doth utterly forbid it, and condemne it: And thus much for our Religion.

And now having finiſhed what my intentions were, and finding that neither Taxations, Proceedings, Government, Liberty, or Religion can be, or are the true grounds (although ſiniſterly imagined) of theſe growing evills, theſe diſtractions, feares, and jealouſies, what ſhall I ſay, nay what may be ſayd? *Nam quo me vertam neſcio:* Be amazed therefore yee ô heavens, and ſtartle ô yee earth, to think, that *Caſsius*, yea, and *Brutus* ſhould ſtab *Ceſar* too: Wherefore, as the Prophet *Jeremiah* ſaith, ſo I conclude; *O that my head were a fountaine of water, and mine eyes a river of teares, that I might weep day and night for the ſins of this people*; and to ſend a period to theſe evills.

FINIS.